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The Newark Public Library Presents:

# Garrard Conley

BOOK DISCUSSION & SIGNING

Wednesday, July 10th 6-8 PM

5 Washington Street, Newark, NJ 07102

James Brown African American Room, Second Floor



Photo credit: Colin Boyd Shafer

Garrard Conley is author of the acclaimed memoir *Boy Erased*, which has been translated in over a dozen languages and is now a major motion picture. An accomplished speaker, Conley travels the country lecturing on compassion, the therapeutic benefits of writing, and the complex issues surrounding the American South.

Please RSVP to attend at [npl.org/GarrardConley](http://npl.org/GarrardConley)

*\*Free parking will be available at the Essex County Lot (Bears/Eagles Stadium garage).*

*Entrance on Bridge Street.*

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# Schedule of Events

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- 4:00-5:00 pm** LGBTQ Panel Discussion. Topic: Conversion Therapy.  
Moderated by Dean Dafis; Panelists Dr. Eunice Avilés, Elder Kevin Taylor, and Nala Toussaint.
- 5:00-6:00 pm** Networking and Light Refreshments in the newly appointed LGBTQ Center on the 1st Floor
- 6:30-8:00 pm** Garrard Conley Book Discussion and Signing
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## moderator



### Dean Dafis

Dean Dafis is the Township of Maplewood's first out elected LGBTQ Committeeman (Councilman) where he is actively engaged in efforts related to youth empowerment and mentoring, youth restorative justice, building greater institutional equity by bringing gaps in representation or engagement and in municipal services, economic development, business special improvement district enhancement, senior services, and social justice advocacy.

## panelists



### Dr. Eunice Avilés

Dr. Aviles is a Gender Specialist and Certified Sex Therapist. She is the founder of Transcending Identities, an organization committed to improving the quality of life of transgender and gender non-binary individuals. Dr. Aviles' career is focused on educating professionals, and the general community, about the needs of sexual and gender minorities. She advocates to help protect their rights and to ensure that they receive culturally sensitive and evidence-based specialized medical and mental health services.



### Elder Kevin Taylor

Kevin E. Taylor is a noted author, pastor, writer and producer for television, lecturer and empowerment speaker, who has spoken at colleges, universities and community groups and who has preached around the country and internationally, for the last 20 years. Taylor is the Director of Administration for Turning Point Community Services, which operates Servant's House, a women's and children's shelter and heads the Essex County CEAS/CoC (Consortium of Care), helping to eradicate homelessness in the country.



### Nala Toussaint

Brooklyn born with an Afro-Caribbean background, Nala Toussaint works to advance the social and economic well-being of African Descendants, with an urgent focus on queer, same-gender loving people, transgender, and non-binary people, and ultimately the entire community. She has done extensive work as an outreach liaison, conducting safe sex intervention activities for youths, and coordinating educational and job development services at renowned LGBT public service organizations.

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visit [www.npl.org/GarrardConley](http://www.npl.org/GarrardConley)  
for more details and to RSVP to attend

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